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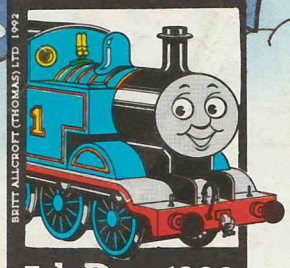


BRITT ALLCROFT (THOMAS) LTD 1992

5th Dec. 1992
No. 134 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

TRIX® Competition INSIDE!

Peep! Peep! What can Thomas see?!

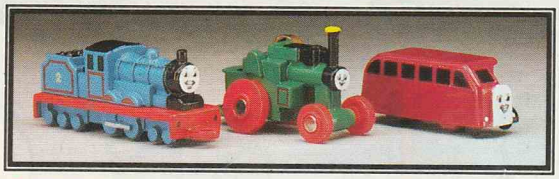
49
9 770954 939046

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Christmas is a very busy season for all the engines on the Island of Sodor and the Fat Controller makes sure that each station is brightly decorated. Thomas has been even more useful than usual, helping the Fat Controller deliver a batch of Christmas trees! But one tree is very special! Who do you think will receive the Special Christmas tree? Peep! Peep!

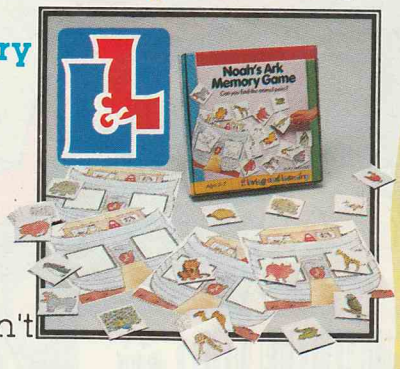
IN THIS ISSUE!

Turn to page **14** of this issue for your chance to win more fantastic **Miniature Playsets** from a new range of toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd* (see below). ERTL®



OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

Our special Christmas issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** will also feature a super competition! You will have the opportunity to win some fantastic new games, courtesy of *Living and Learning*, including a **Noah's Ark Memory game** (see below) as well as **Picture Nines** and **Finders keepers** games! Don't miss it!



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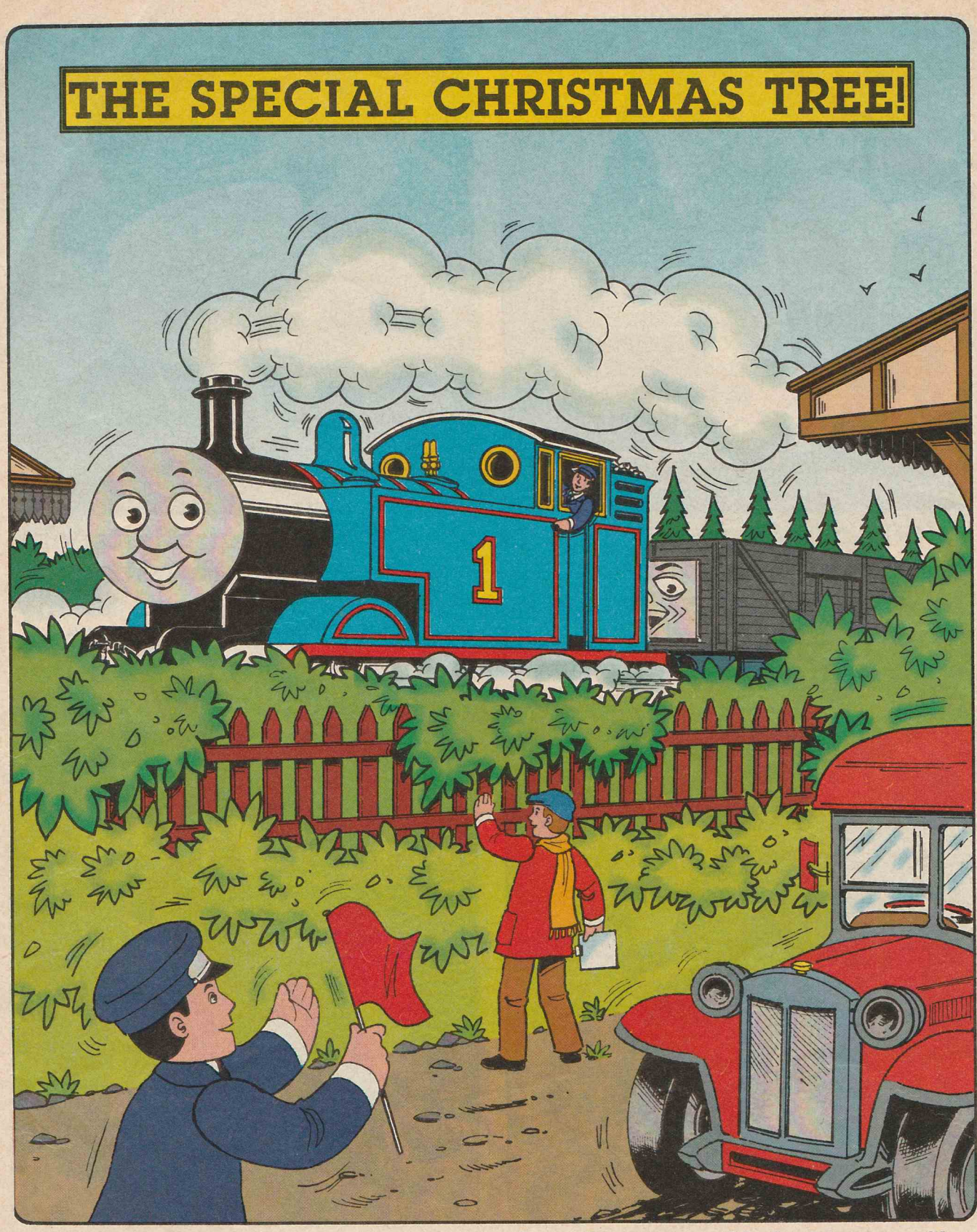
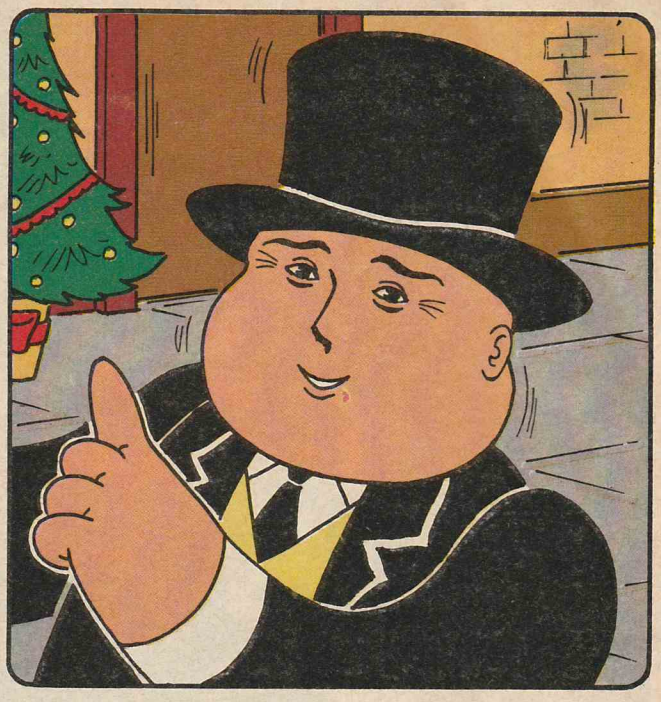
THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREE!



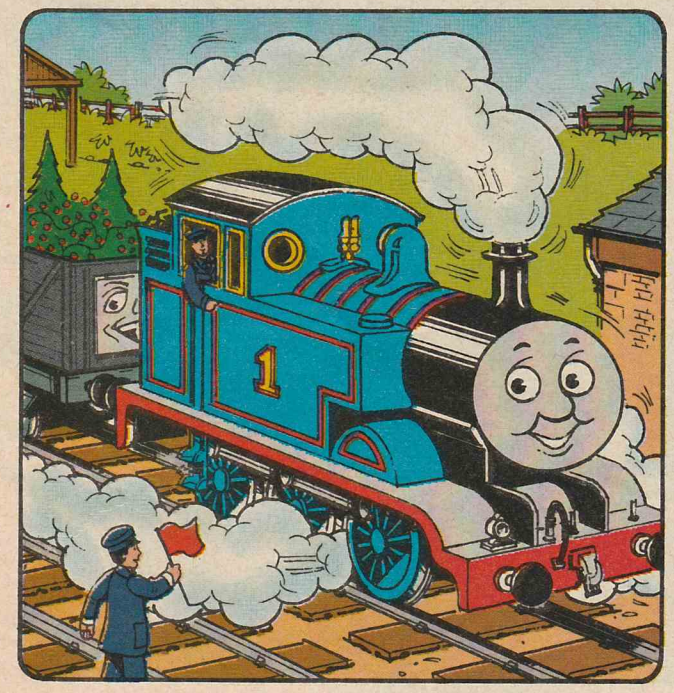
1. One morning before Christmas, Thomas collected some fir trees from a tree nursery and took them to Elsbridge Station to be sold as Christmas trees.

2. "They will look really splendid decorated with tinsel and bright lights!" thought Thomas. The trees had been dug up and put in special pots.

3. When Thomas returned to the Main Station platform, he was surprised to see a Christmas tree, decorated with different coloured lights!

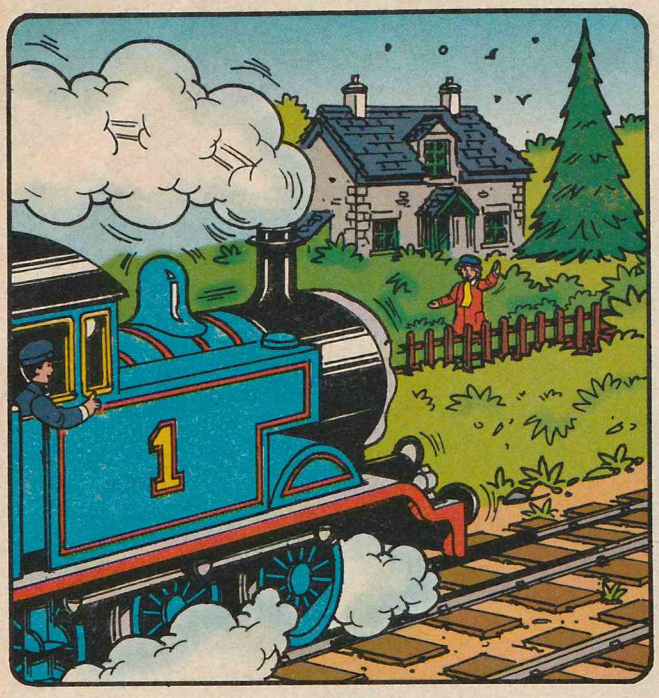


4. The Fat Controller spoke to Thomas. "I've asked all the Stationmasters on my railway to decorate their platforms with Christmas trees!" he said.

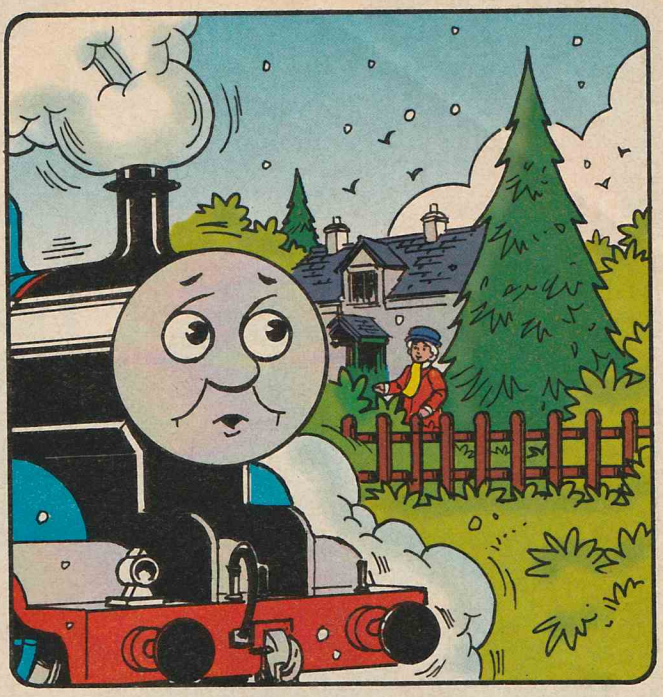


5. Thomas was to collect more trees from the tree nursery for the stations along his branch line. Thomas carried Christmas lights from railway stores.

6. Thomas puffed eagerly along to the tree nursery to collect more trees. Then the tree grower loaded the last Christmas trees into Thomas's trucks.

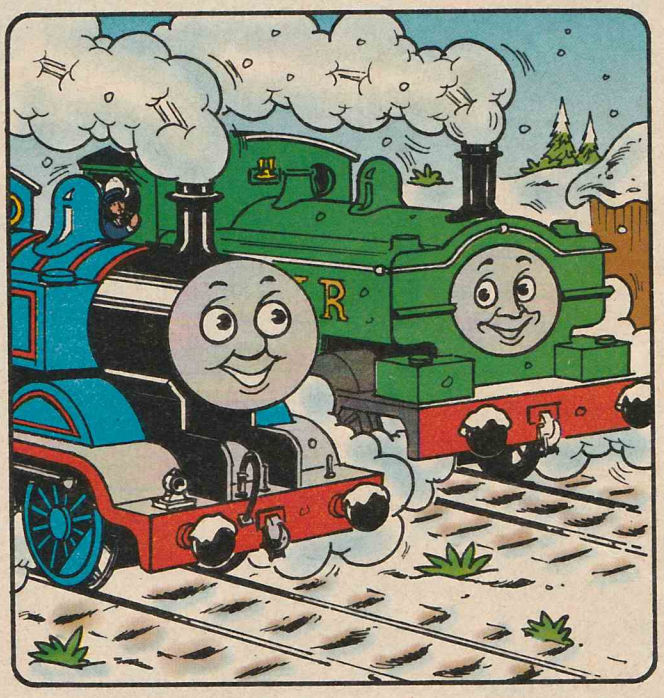


7. Thomas puffed along on his way to deliver the trees to the stations. He saw Mrs Kyndley waving from her cottage garden. She was cutting holly.

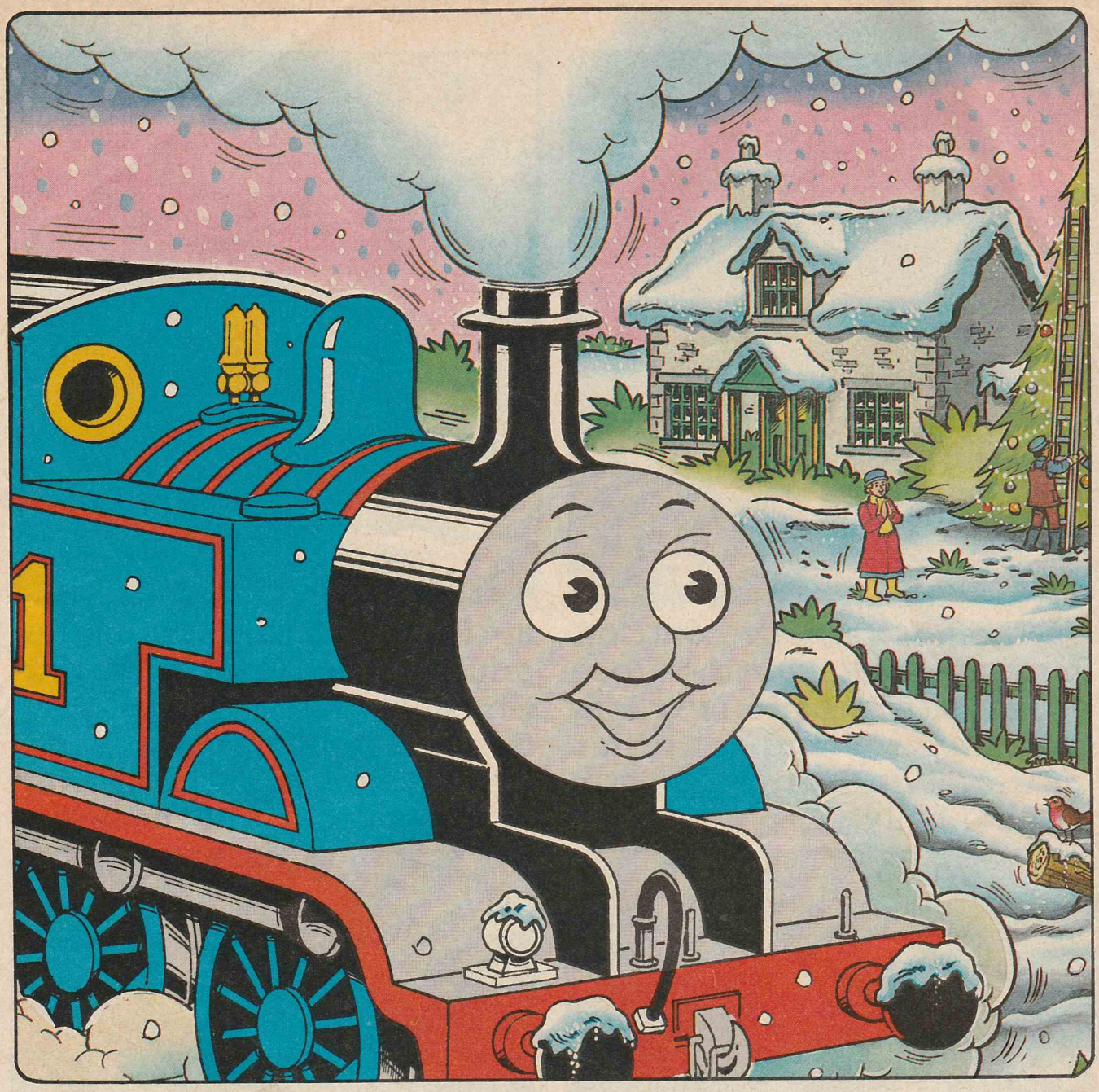


8. Mrs Kyndley said she could not afford to buy a Christmas tree. Thomas saw a fir tree in her garden. "That tree is too big to go inside her house!" thought Thomas.

9. Later, Thomas headed back down his line. He saw all the Stationmasters decorating the trees. Then, Thomas remembered Mrs Kyndley's tree.



10. Thomas met Duck who had delivered Christmas trees to the stations on the main line. Thomas told him about Mrs Kyndley's tree. "I have some lights left!" cried Duck.



11. "I took more than were needed to supply the stations," he added, "but I don't have a spare Christmas tree!" The Fat Controller overheard what Duck had been saying. He had an idea. "We can use the spare lights to decorate Mrs Kyndley's tree!" said the Fat Controller. Thomas and Annie set off for the cottage.

12. At Mrs Kyndley's cottage, the engineers used a ladder to hang the spare lights on the branches of the tall fir tree in the garden. Mrs Kindley was delighted when the lights were turned on. They lit up the whole tree. "Oh, it's a wonderful Christmas tree!" she smiled. "Thankyou everyone!" Thomas looked very happy.

THE END!

In our next issue: The dark engine!

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THE NEW JOB!

It was a special day on the Fat Controller's railway. A signalman was retiring after many years of service. There was to be a grand leaving party for him that evening when the engines had finished their work.

In the Main Station yard, Thomas was coupled to a goods van. It was loaded with old railway equipment including a station nameplate, a ticket machine, old timetables and engine parts.

"The Fat Controller wants all this stock delivered to the museum at Wellsworth," said Thomas's driver. "It's to go on display!" Thomas was puzzled.

"What's a museum?"

"It's a place full of interesting, old objects," explained the driver. "People go there to learn about the past!"

Thomas puffed on his way. As he neared Wellsworth Station, the signal was at stop so Thomas pulled up and waited for it to change. He saw the signalman in his signalbox.

"Peep! Peep! Hello!" whistled Thomas.

The signalman stepped outside and waved to Thomas.

"I will be retiring soon!" he told Thomas's driver. "When I leave the railway, I will be able to spend more time gardening and fishing. I am looking forward to it.

"It's a shame the signalman has to leave!" sighed Thomas. The signal moved to show the line was clear and Thomas chuff-chuffed on his way.

"I'm sure the signalman will cheer up at the party!" said his driver.

When Thomas puffed into Wellsworth Station, the Stationmaster spoke to his driver.

"Thomas must take that old railway stock back to the yard," he said. "I've just

heard that there is no one working at the museum and that it is closed just now!"

"Why?" asked Thomas's driver.

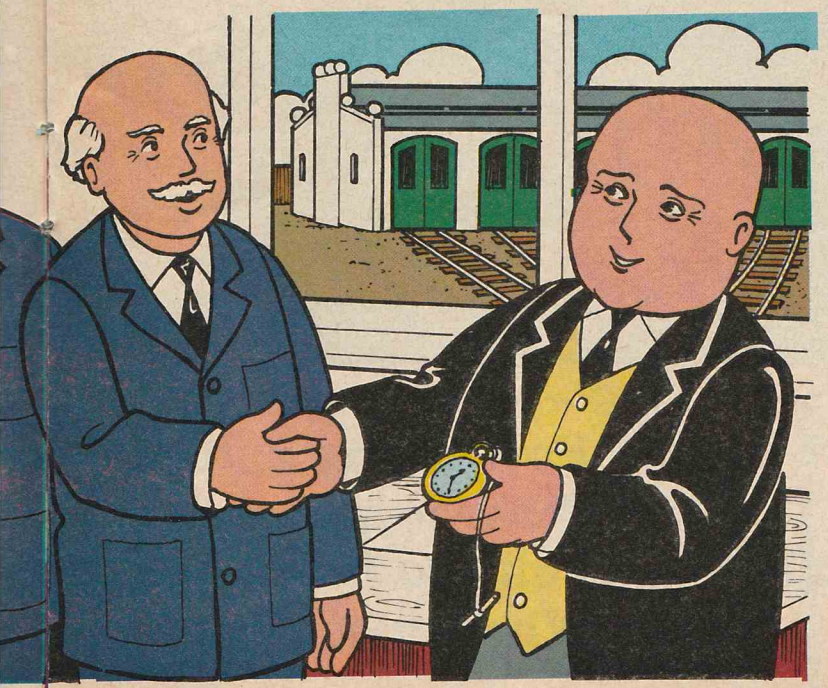
"The man in charge, called the curator, has taken a job on the mainland instead!" said the Stationmaster. "There is no one to replace him."

Thomas returned to the Main Station and told the Fat Controller all about the museum and the sad signalman.

"Beg your pardon, sir," said Thomas politely, "I wish you could find the signalman another job to do." The Fat Controller had an idea.

"Bless my soul! Perhaps I can, Thomas!" he cried. He hurried to his office and rang the Mayor at Wellsworth. Meanwhile, Thomas set off to pull the afternoon passenger train along his branch line. Later, back at the yard, he lined up beside the other engines near the shed. A table had been laid with refreshments in the Fat Controller's office and all the railway staff were there, including the signalman.

Signalman



The Fat Controller presented him with a gold watch as a leaving gift. I would very much like you to be the new curator at Wellsworth's museum. I have spoken to the Mayor and he is very keen to meet you," the Fat Controller said importantly. The signalman was very surprised.

"You can tell the visitors all about the railway equipment in the museum too!" the Fat Controller went on.

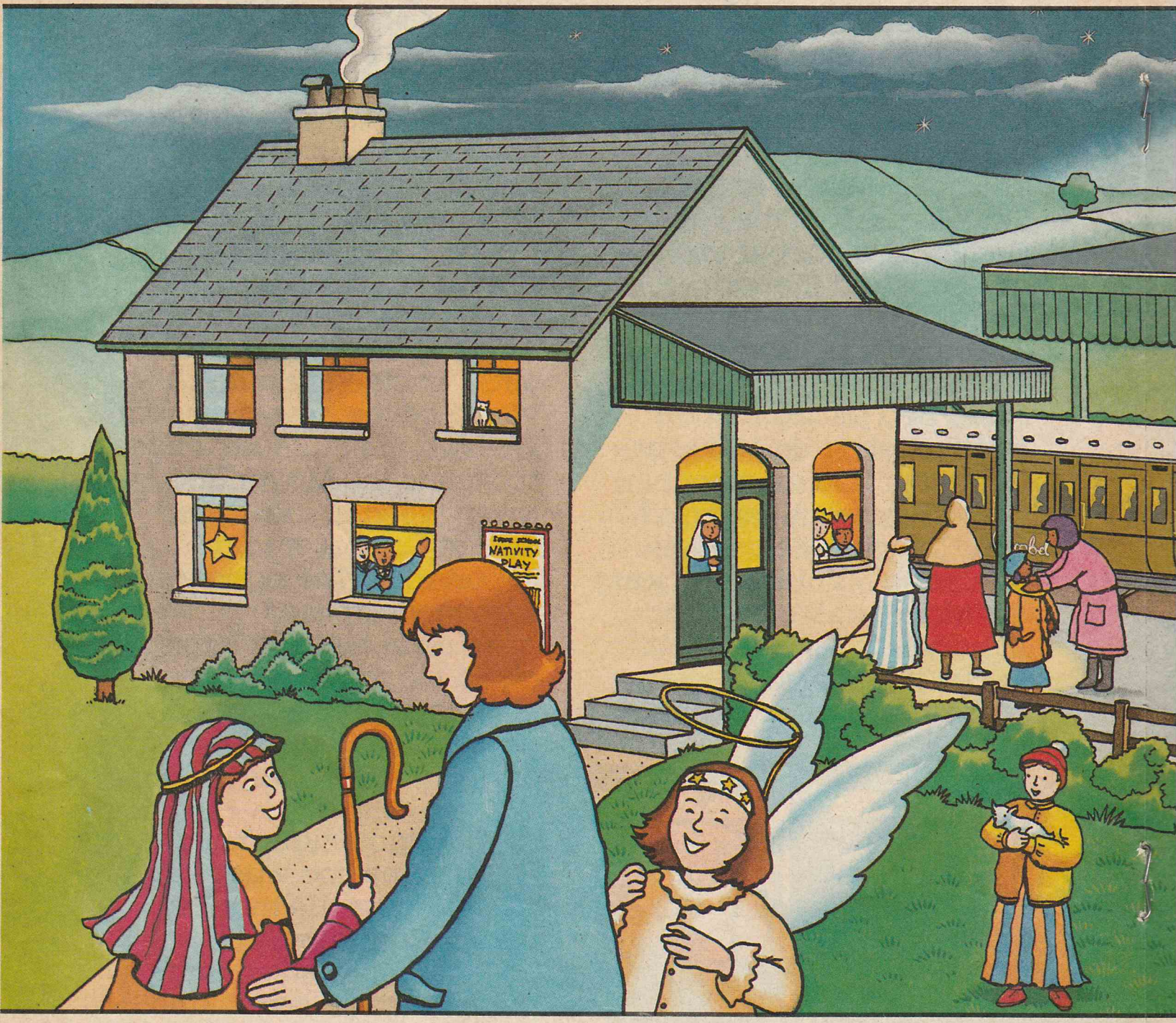
The signalman thought the new job was really splendid. He thanked the Fat Controller.

"That's the best leaving present I could have!" said the signalman happily.

"Gracious!" chuckled Thomas. "I'll have to make another journey to the museum with that old railway equipment, after all!"

THE END!

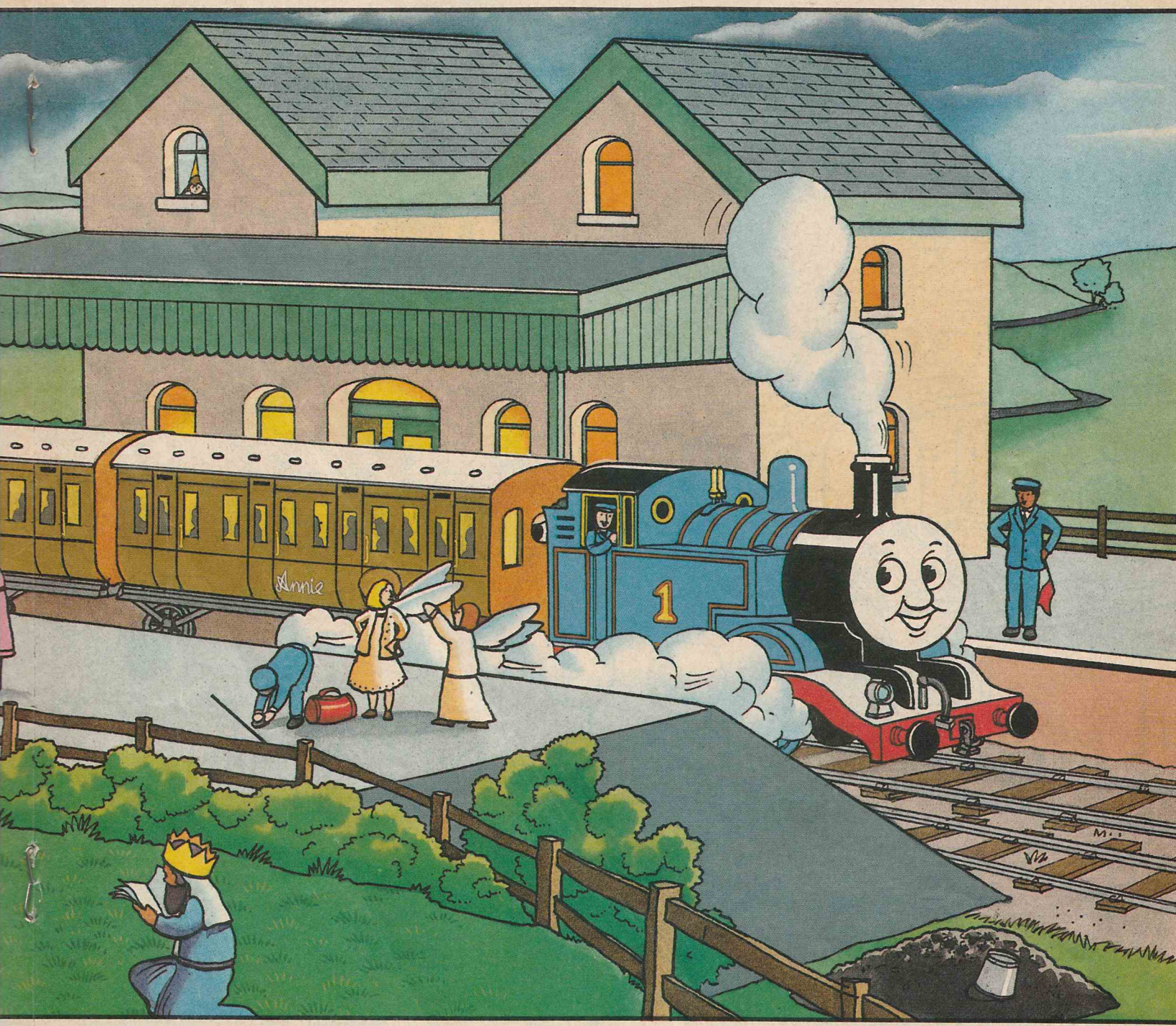
Off to the Na



What engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What are his carriages called?
Point to the main station!

How many children ca
Why do you think they
Point to the school post
What does it say?

ntivity Play!



n can you see?
hey are wearing costumes?
poster!

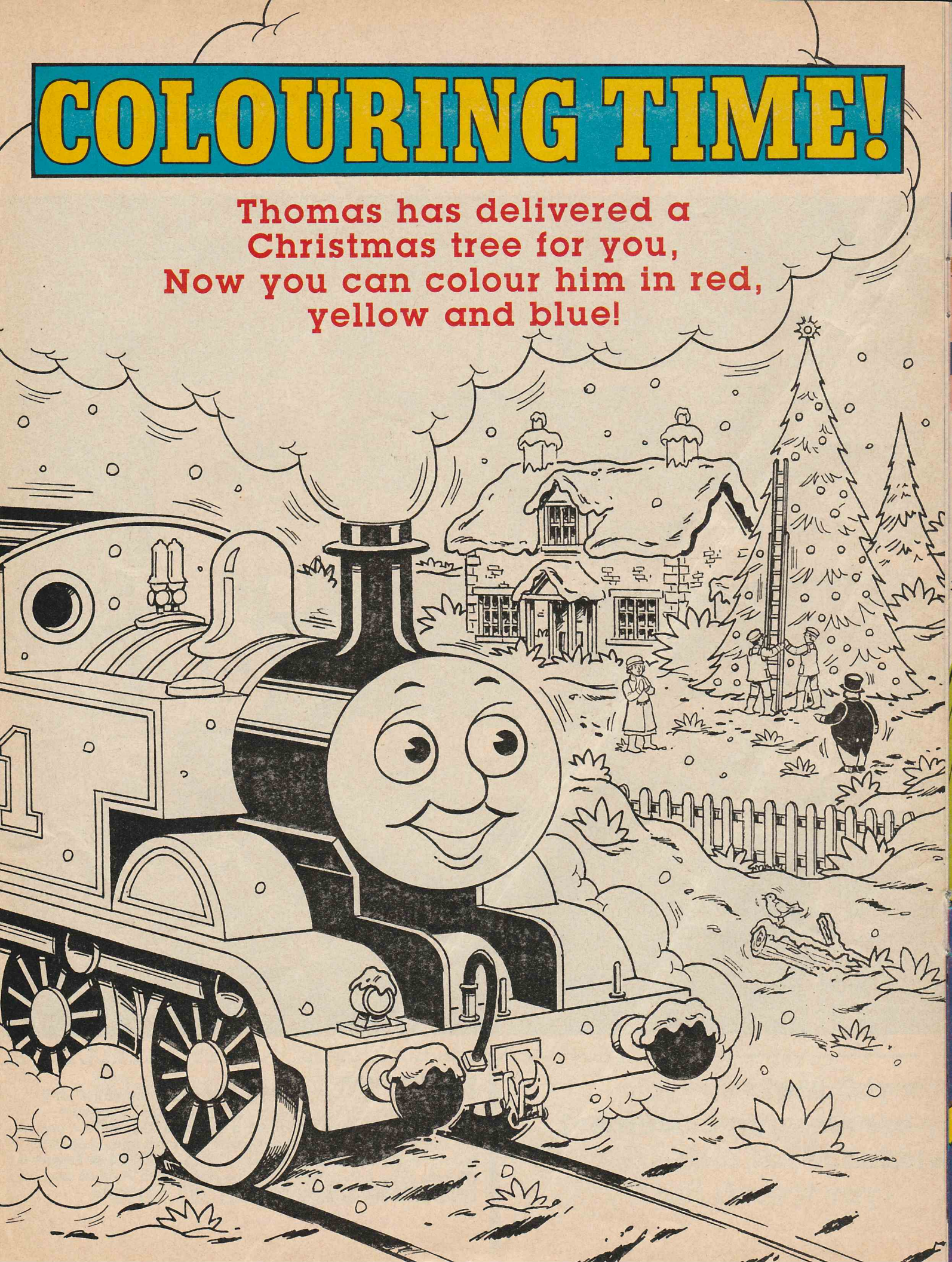
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

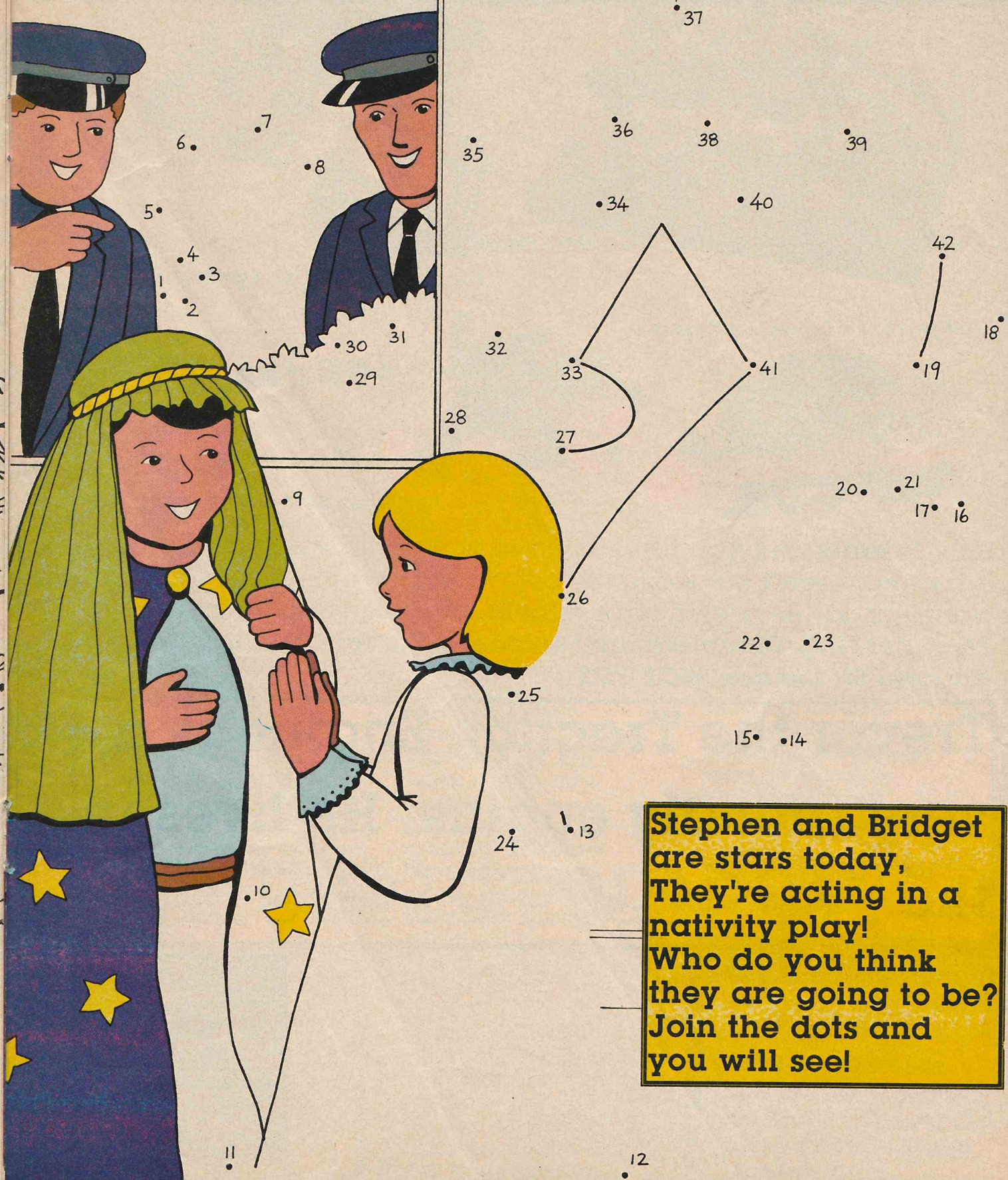
In our next issue: Past the church hall!

COLOURING TIME!

Thomas has delivered a Christmas tree for you, Now you can colour him in red, yellow and blue!



JOIN THE DOTS!



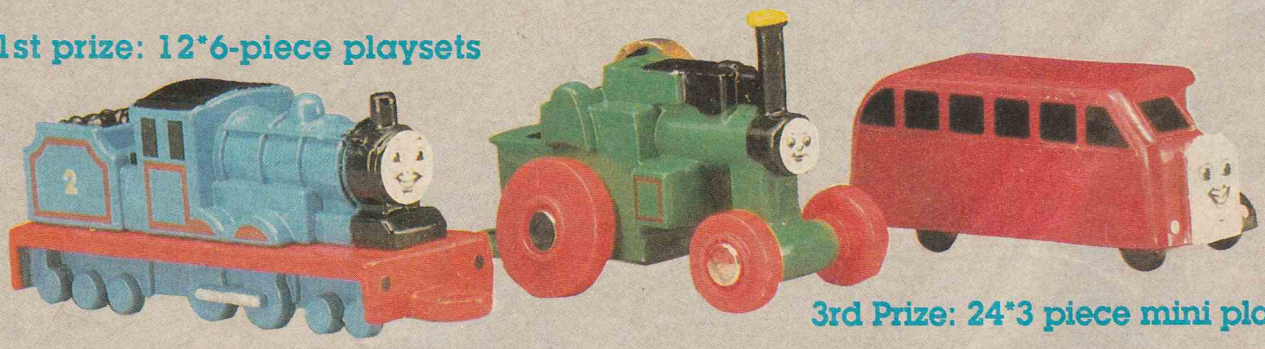
Stephen and Bridget are stars today, They're acting in a nativity play! Who do you think they are going to be? Join the dots and you will see!

COMPETITION!

You can win one of these fantastic prizes when you complete the sentence below!

1st prize: 12*6-piece playsets

2nd prize: 12*4-piece playsets



3rd Prize: 24*3 piece mini playsets

How to enter: All you have to do to win your own special prize is carefully read the sentence below and complete the last two words using the dotted lines to help you, then send this page to ***Thomas/ERTL Complete the Sentence, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*** **(Closing date:19th December 1992!)**

Trevor the Traction Engine is a very friendly engine. He lives in the v i c a r a g e o r c h a r d !

PARENT/GUARDIAN
MR/MRS/MISS/MS INITIALS.....SURNAME.....
ADDRESS.....
TOWN.....COUNTY.....
POSTCODE.....
CHILD'S NAME.....SURNAME.....
ADDRESS .....
TOWN.....COUNTY.....

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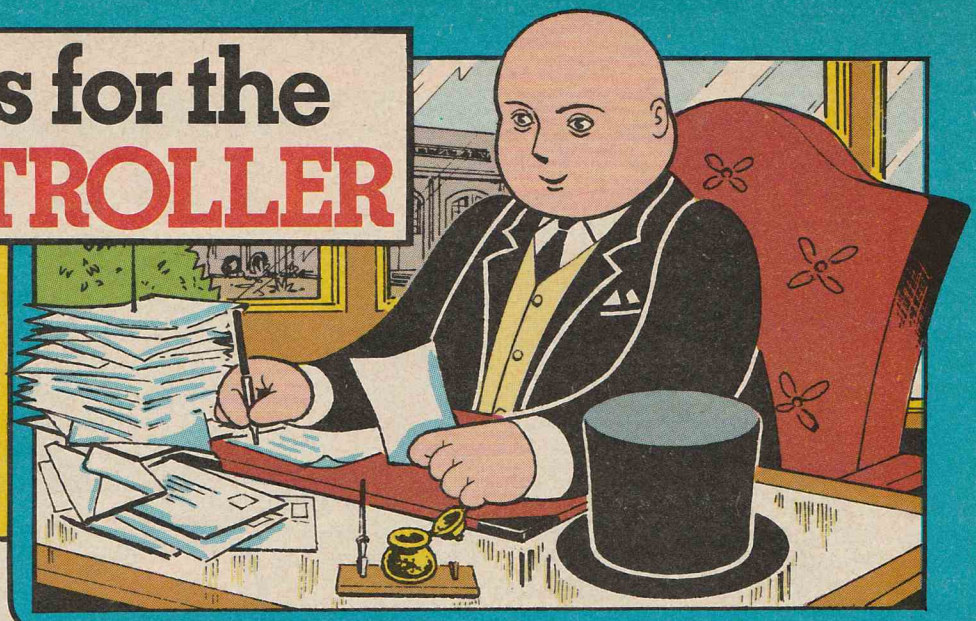
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

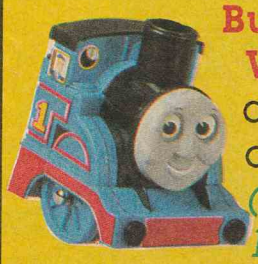
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Recently, I visited the Kidderminster train station. Thomas and Diesel had a competition pulling trucks. Diesel broke down then Thomas pulled Diesel and his truck. Thomas really saved the day!

Love from **Matthew Soper**, aged 2.

What a co-incidence! My Saddletank engines, Bill and Ben often tease each other to see who can pull the most trucks. I am not surprised that Thomas got Diesel out of trouble as he really is a most Useful Engine!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Bubble Walker** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



ENGINES NAMES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engines are Donald and Douglas because they are Scottish like me! I was wondering why the other engines do not have their names on them!

Love from **Michael Wood**.

Well Michael! I originally had all my engines individually numbered for my railway. When Donald and Douglas arrived from the north British and Caledonian Railways they already had their own nameplates made specially by their own Scottish engineers!

GORDON'S COACHES!

Dear Fat Controller
What are the names of Gordon's coaches?

Love from **James Harrison**, aged 3.

Gordon's coaches do not have names.

Annie and Clarabel are the only coaches who have names!

BIRTHDAYS!

James Pullen (18747), Nathan Distin, Sam Dickinson (39191), Madeliene Camp, Neil Webb (38705), Andrew Diack (39380), Pietro Joseph Pagano, David Phillip Jones, Dale Byrne, Robert Matthew Shiels, Christopher Ford (1453), Philip Ayers, Jonathan Pinney (32787), James Broughton, Matthew Dinneen, Christopher Rickards (34110), Daniel James Northey (185565), Benjamin Hawling (32168), Jamie Snell (30308), Rachel Bowers, James Edward Simpson, David Halliday.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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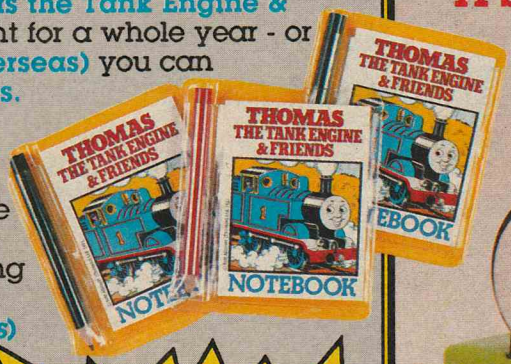

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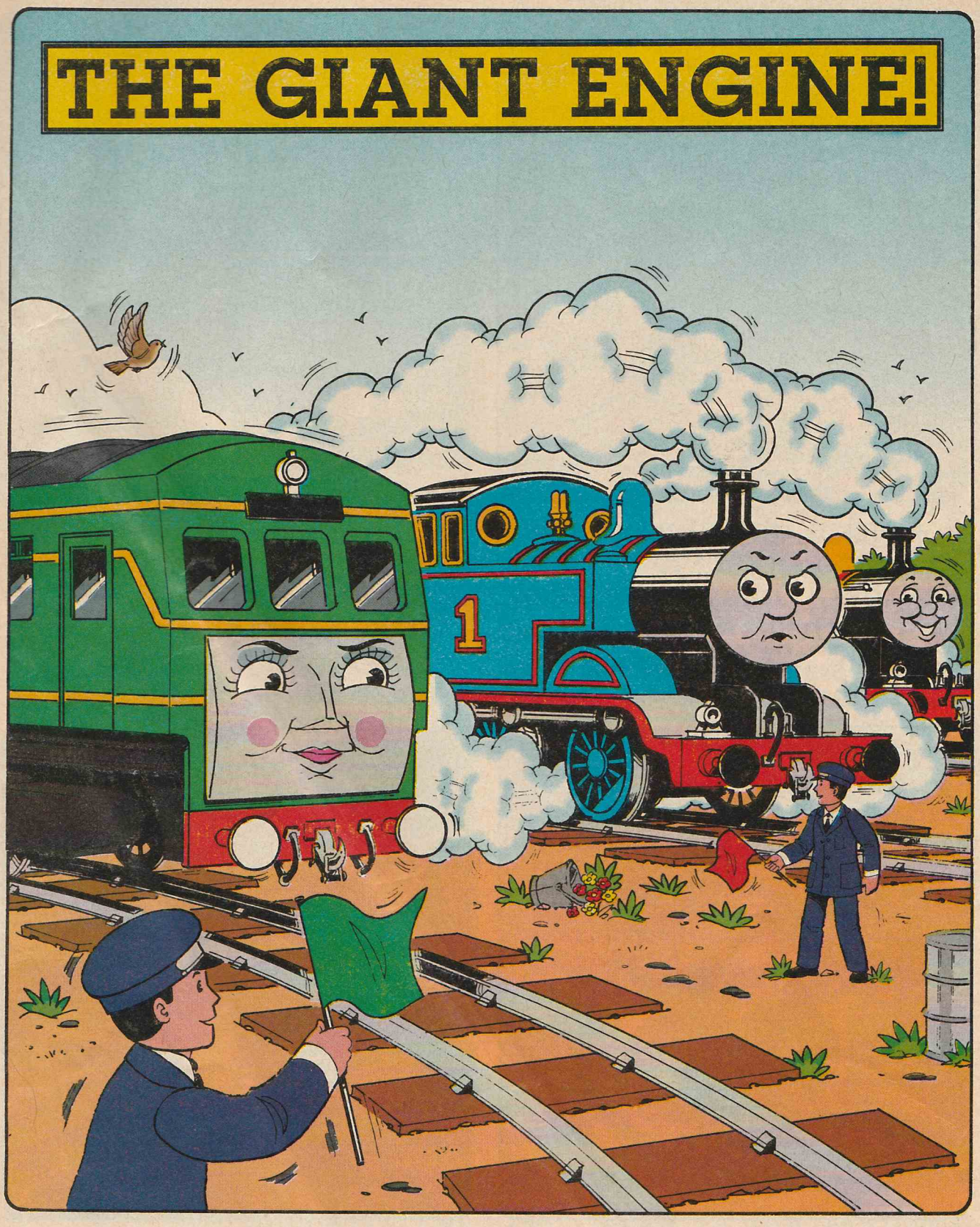
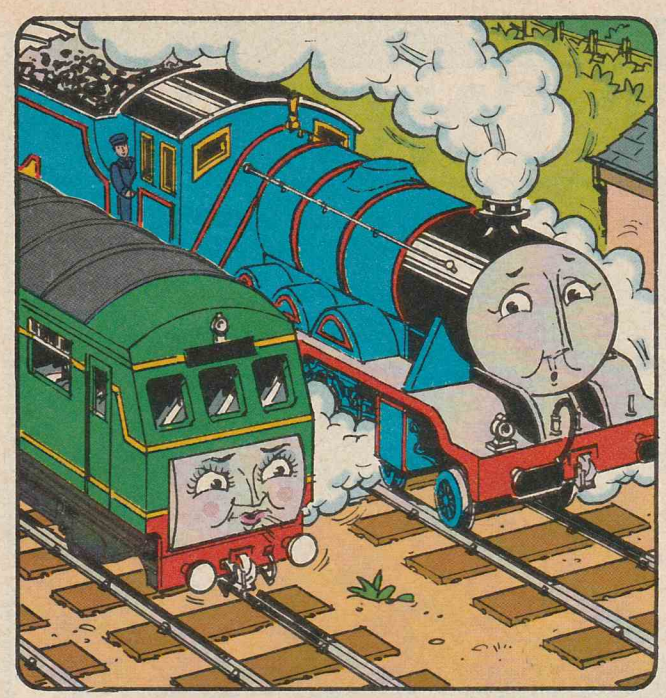
THE GIANT ENGINE!

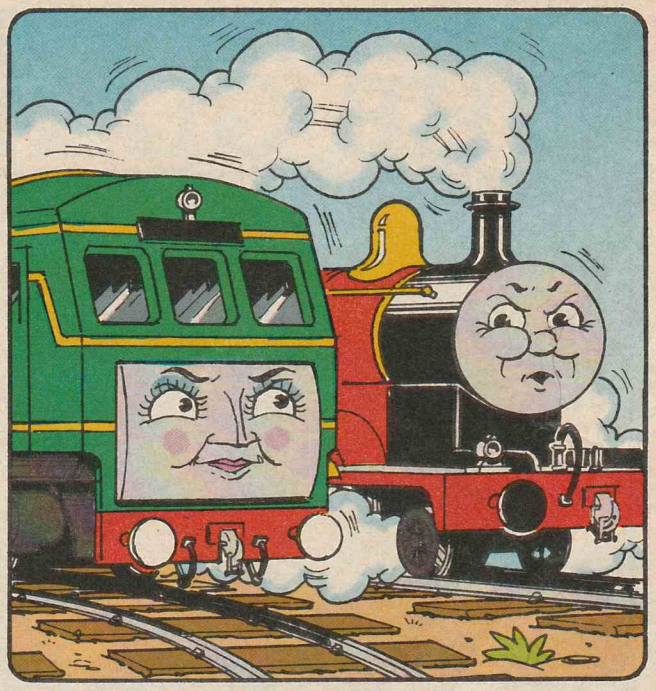


1. One morning, Thomas rolled out of the engine shed. He gradually got up steam to start work. Daisy puffed past. "Watch where you blow your smoke!" she fussed.

2. "I'm a thoroughly modern diesel railcar! I don't want sooty marks on my paint!" she called. "Daisy may be modern but she's also very fussy!" thought Thomas.

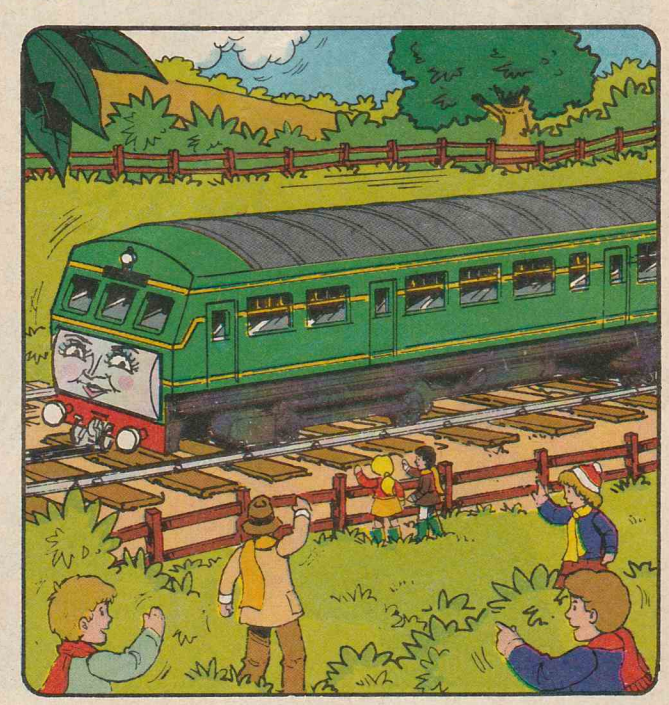


3. Gordon was being coupled to his carriages to take the Express. Daisy passed by him. "What's wrong?" said Gordon. "That smoke from your funnel!" coughed Daisy.

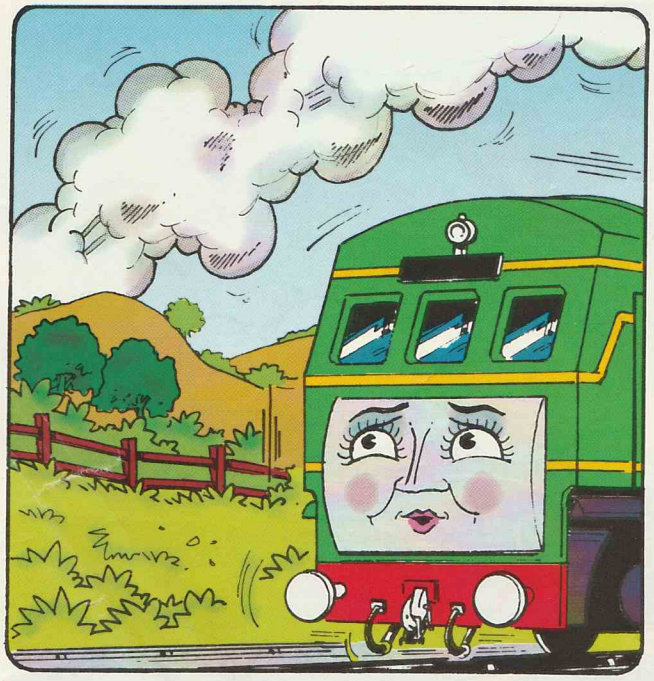


4. "The passengers should complain!" she told him. "Cheek!" fumed Gordon. When Daisy passed James she moaned at him too. "We must blow smoke!" said James.

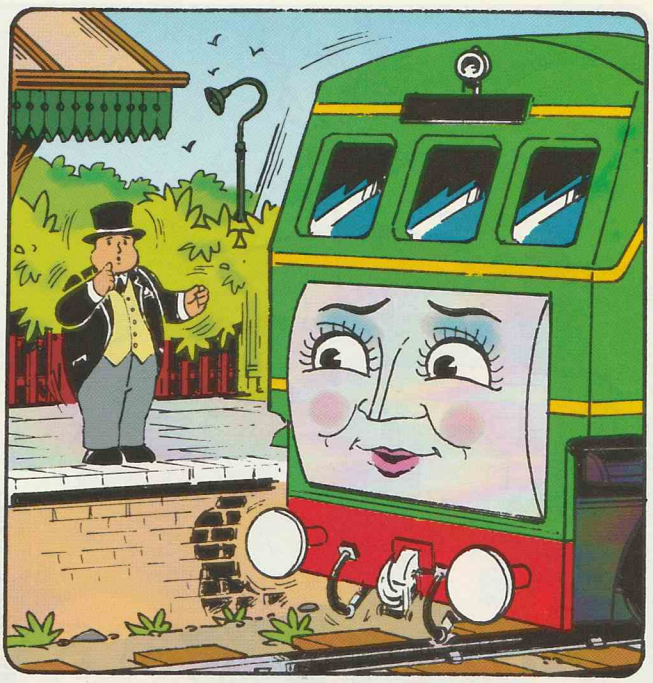
5."The Fat Controller insists all his steam engines use good quality coal because it burns cleanly!" said James's driver. Daisy set off to carry passengers on a new line.



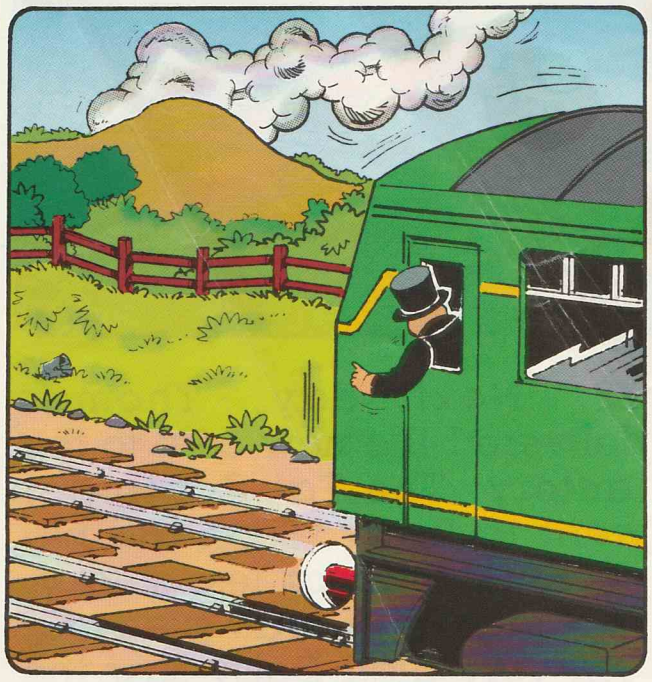
6. People watched Daisy as she rolled along. "They like to see a smokeless engine!" she thought. Suddenly, Daisy saw thick, black smoke rising high into the air.



7. The smoke came from behind a hill. It blackened the sky. "Disgraceful!" gasped Daisy. "It must be from a giant engine!" Later on, Daisy told the Fat Controller.

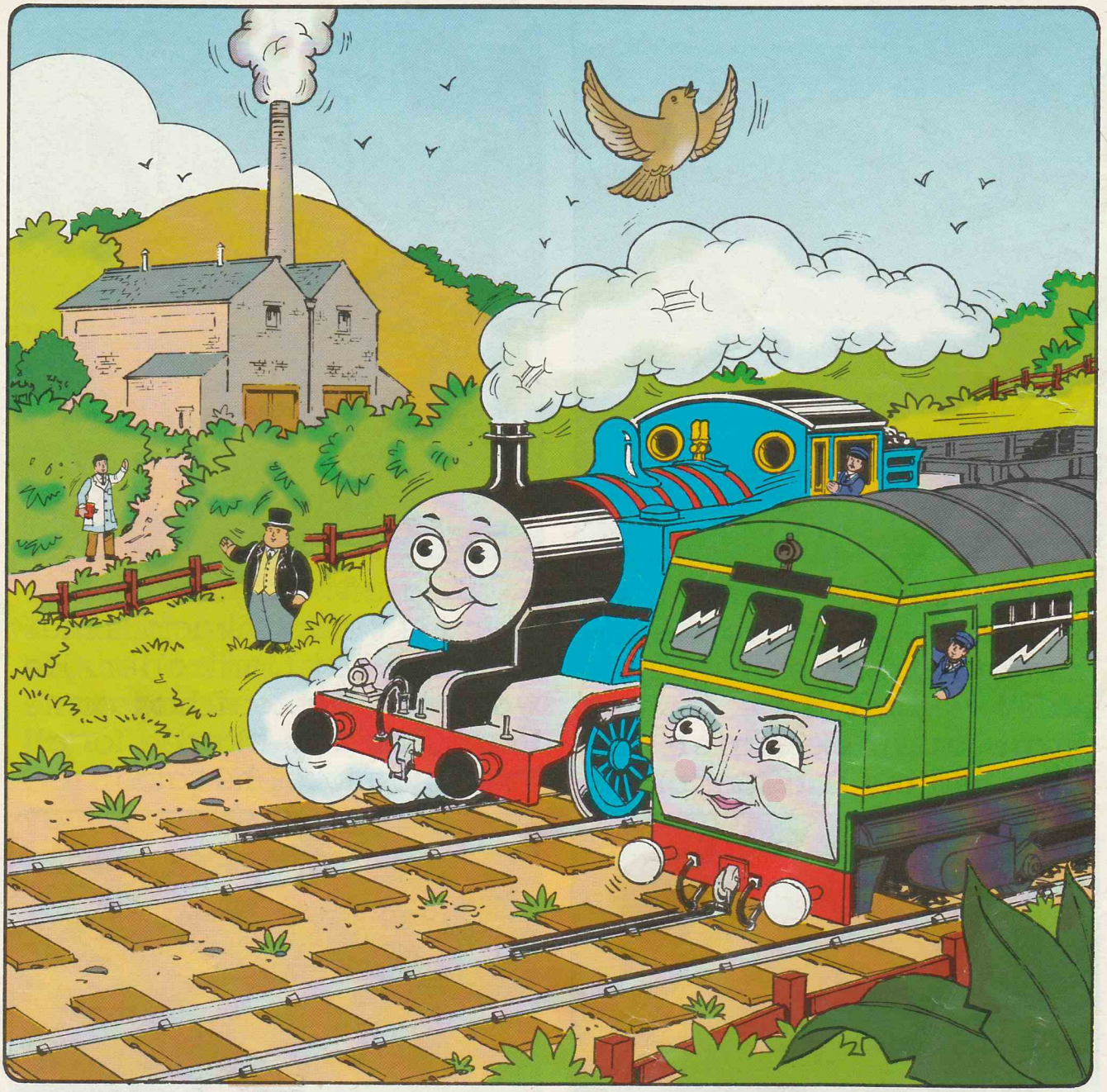


8. "A giant engine on the Island of Sodor? "Gracious me!" said the Fat Controller. He wondered where it had come from. "We'll be blamed for all the dirty smoke!" he said.



9. Next morning, the Fat Controller went with Daisy on the new line again. He wanted to see the giant engine. Near the hill, there was a big cloud of sooty smoke.

10. "None of my engines would puff such dirty smoke!" said the Fat Controller. Daisy went to have a closer look. The smoke was coming from a tall factory chimney.



11. The Fat Controller spoke to the manager. "What can I do about it?" he asked. The Fat Controller had an idea. "I'll send you some different coal to burn!" he said. When the other engines heard about the factory chimney, they laughed at Daisy. "It serves her right!" Fancy Daisy thinking it was a giant engine making that smoke!"

12. Next day, Thomas delivered the new coal to the factory. The Fat Controller went in Daisy. Soon the big chimney was far less smoky. The manager was pleased. "I'm very glad Daisy saw the dirty smoke!" said the Fat Controller. "Thanks to her, the factory will burn clean coal from now on," "Just like steam engines!" said Thomas.

THE END!

In our next issue: The Christmas engine!